THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise

Sub-standard food served in trains

123. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that sub-standard and unhygienic food materials are served/supplied in Rajdhani, Shatabdis and most of other trains;

(b) whether Government are aware that private catering companies are indifferent towards the quality and quantity of food materials;

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or contemplating to take to improve the catering services;

(d) whether time to time inspections are done by the railway authorities; and

(e) whether there is any committee to examine and to look after these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) to (c) Railways provide hygienic food to the passengers at stations and in trains including Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains through private licensees as well as departmental staff under Indian Railway Catering Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Appropriate actions like, warning, fine and even termination of contract are taken on complaints received on quality and quantity.

(d) Regular inspections are conducted by Railway as well as IRCTC officials to ensure proper catering services in Railways.

(e) There is no committee to examine and look into the complaints received. However, IRCTC have established a Computerized Complaint Monitoring Cell in the corporate office as well as in their Zonal offices for effective monitoring and redressal of complaints.

Creation of Railway Division at Salem

124. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the creation of a new Railway Division at Salem is pending with Government;

(b) whether necessary clearance and approval for the new division has been accorded;

(c) if so, the details of the areas, the new division would comprise;

(d) whether the new division propose to be carved out of the existing divisions in this area; and

(e) if so, detail of the areas being carved out from each of the existing divisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The demand for a division at Salem has been agreed to in principle.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The following tentative jurisdiction has been finalized for the proposed Salem Division:

- Udagamandalam – Coimbatore North - Erode - Salem-Jolarpettai (excluding.) (from Palghat Division);
- Irugur Podanur (including) -Coimbatore North (from Palghat Division);
- Erode – Tiruchchirappalli (excluding.) (from Palghat Division);
- Salem – Karur (New line);
- Karur – Dindigul (excluding.) (from Palghat Division);
- Salem – Vriddhachalam (excluding) (from Tiruchchirappalli Division); and
- Salem-Mettur Dam (from Palghat Division).

Una-Pathankot Rail Line

125. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have abandoned Una-Pathankot part of the bigger Nangal/ Talwara-Una-Pathankot rail project which began decades ago;

(b) if not, by when the entire project is likely to be completed;

(c) if Una-Pathankot project (part) has been abandoned, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the present status of the whole or truncated project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, the new line project is from Nangal Dam-Una- Talwara and taking over siding from Mukerian to Talwara.

(c) Does not arise.

(b) and (d) The section from Nangal Dam-Una Himachal to Chuararu Takrala (32.73 kms.) has already been completed and commissioned. Earthwork and minor bridges works have been taken up from Chuararu Takrala to Amb Anduara (11.25 kms.) and for the balance section preparation of detailed estimates has been taken up.

Report of Japanese International Cooperation Agency regarding Freight Corridor Project

126. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from Japanese International Cooperation Agency for the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi- Kolkata phases of the railway freight corridor project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is preparing a separate feasibility report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is conducting a feasibility